(b) whether Government propose to conduct any enquiry into the charges levelled by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra against NDDB; and

(c) whether it is a fact that NDDB was having sufficient quantity of edible oil for distribution during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The question of enquiry into the NDDB's activities under market intervention operations does not arise. NDDB is implementing market intervention operations on behalf of the Central Government in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by the Government.

(c) NDDB's stock of edible oil, created under the market intervention operations, is not meant to meet the entire demand of a particular place or State. The market intervention operations' stocks are meant to play a moderating role in the edible oil market and the stocks are being used for this purpose.

Ban on felling of trees for manufacturing of Railway Sleepers

83. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that felling of trees for manufacturing railway sleepers has been banned; and

(b) if so, what alternative arrangement have been made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir. However, to conserve forest wealth of the country, Railways have drastically reduced the intake of wooden sleepers already and further reduction is in process;

(b) Incrased production and use of concrete sleepers.

Suicide by Scientist of ICAR

84. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Scientist of ICAR committed suicide in the month of January, 1991 due to harassment of high ups in the organisation;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof;

(a) whether it is also a fact that in the past also a number of ICAR Scientists had committed suicide on similar grounds; and

(e) if so, what are the particulars of such Scientists and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) Sir, A Scientist of the Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry was found dead in the institute on 7th January, 1991. A committee has been constituted to inquire into the matter. Report of the committee has not been received so far.

(d) No Sir, In no case of alleged suicide, harassment by high ups has been proved to be the cause.

(e) Does not arise.

Charges in the norms for setting up of Sugar Mills

85. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed norms for setting up of sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details of the changes so made and norms being followed at present;

(c) whether the reduction in the distance between two sugar mills has resulted in increase in the cost of production of sugar and has also adversely affected the availability of sugarcane to the sugar-mills; and

(d) if so, the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Licensing Policy for sugar industry for the 8th Five Year Plan is presently being reviewed by the Government.

Tourism as an Industry

86. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since taken a decision to accord the status of an Industry to tourism and also to give priority treatment to this sector; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there has been tardy implementation of the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 14 States and 3 Union Territories have already declared tourism as an Industry. In addition, 4 States have declared only hotels as an Industry.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India also offer number of incentives to the Tourism Industry including the setting up of hotels.

Unrest amongst agricultural labour

87. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unrest among the agricultural labour, as the land distributed among the weaker sections has been reclaimed by the landlords in various States using unscrupulous means;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to implement the land reforms in these States in a meaningful manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) Complaints have been made in and outside Parliament from time to time about SC and ST assignees of surplus ceiling land having been disposed of their allotted land by erstwhile land-owners/other vested interests.

States have been advised to ensure that the possession may be restored to such assignees. The then Prime Minister in his letter addressed to Chief Ministers of States/UTs in July, 1990 has urged that the revenue machinery and the police should be geared to see that any hindrance to the occupation of such lands by the allottees is removed. In addition to the possession being given to the people, financial assistance for the development of these lands should be provided under various Central/State Schemes.

Withdrawal of Supply of Palm Oil by NDDB

88. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press Reports which appeared in Marathi and English papers the dated the 2nd